

REMARKS

Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 2-14 are the claims now pending in the Application.

Claims 5 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. These changes in form are not narrowing amendments of those claims. The Examiner has stated that claims 5 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.¹

Since claim 1 from which claims 2-4 and 6 had previously depended is canceled, claims 2, 3 and 6 are amended to depend from claim 5, and claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 7 to maintain proper claim dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yablon (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,731). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is canceled, therefore the rejection is moot as to this claim.

¹ The Office Action on page 4 mistakenly lists the allowed claims as claims 5 and 6. Since the § 102 rejection lists claim 6 among the rejected claims and does not list claims 5 and 7 as rejected (Office Action, pages 2-4), and since the Office Action Summary states that claims 5 and 7 are objected to but not rejected, it is believed that the Examiner intended to state that claims 5 and 7 are the allowable claims subject to the objection.

Claims 2, 3 and 6 depend from claim 5; claim 4 depends from claim 7. Thus, claims 2, 3 and 6 and claim 4 incorporate novel and nonobvious features of their respective base claims and are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that claims 4 and 7, respectively, are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Independent claims 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14 are amended and are now believed to be allowable.

An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter, with fee, is submitted herewith.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/199,320

Q51986

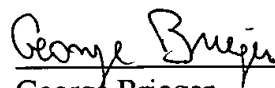
The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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